

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

Cantor Unplugged V

SATURDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 28,
8:00 P.M.

Cantor Sharon Bernstein singing sultry standards, show tunes, and gems from the American, Jewish, and Yiddish songbooks.

"On Dry Ground: Faith, Fear and Transformation at the Edge of the Sea" with Andrea Hodos, creator of Moving Torah

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 – SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 4

See story on page 1.

Shalom Aleichem

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 8 AND 22 AT 3 P.M.

Andrew Ramer leads classes about angels in Jewish tradition and in our personal experience.

Music in the Mishkan returns to Sha'ar Zahav in 2012 for its 13th season! Violinist Randy Weiss and his colleagues will present 3 concerts, all Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m.: February 5, March 11, and May 20.

On Dry Ground: Faith, Fear and Transformation at the Edge of the Sea

The Jeffrey A. Miller Scholar/Artist-in-Residence for *Shabbat Shira*

With Andrea Hodos, Founder of Moving Torah
Friday and Saturday, February 3–4, 2012

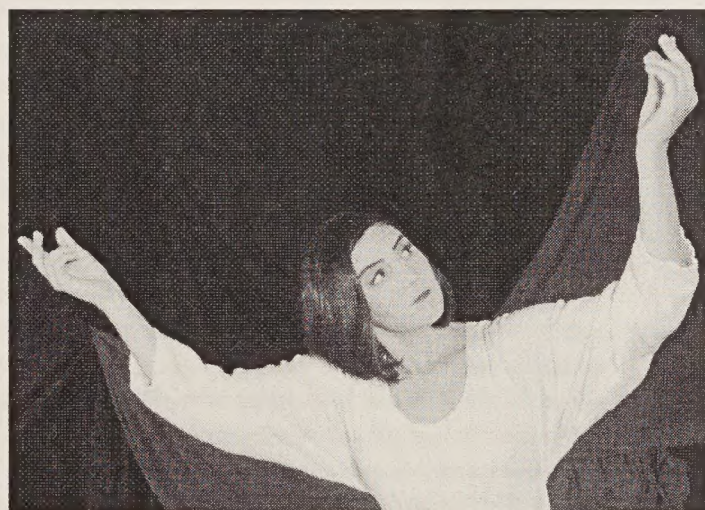
Imagine you are among the Israelites on their way out of Egypt—walking through the sea—surrounded by

towering walls of water that could crash down at any moment. Why has this image been so compelling for generations of people of many faiths? Why does the Haggadah invite Jews to tell this story every year—indeed *obligate* them to imagine that they themselves have lived through it? In essence, standing "*b'toch hayam bayabasha*"—in the middle of the sea upon dry ground—raises the following questions: How does one summon enough faith to move forward in the face of fear? How do you decide to jump in when you're not sure how the story is going to end? Once you've made the choice to move through toward liberation, how do you get there—and who helps you along the way?

During this scholar/artist-in-residency weekend with Andrea Hodos, there will be many opportunities to explore these questions as we celebrate Shabbat Shira—the Shabbat on which we read the account of the Israelites crossing, and the song they sing on the other side. Andrea is an innovator in the field of Jewish community-based performance, and looks forward to bringing Moving Torah, her unique blend of deep textual engagement, accessible community movement experiences and her own stimulating performance work, to Sha'ar Zahav. As an artist and educator, Andrea is interested in exploring the intersection of our personal stories with the communal stories of our tradition. She does this using movement and gesture to learn and explore text and tefila.

During Shabbat evening services, Andrea will gather stories from the congregation about what got them through their own "Red Seas." She will use natural gestures arising from the storytelling to create a simple piece that we will move together during the "Mi Chamocha" prayer. Throughout the service, Andrea and Cantor Bernstein will highlight where and how breath and movement is already present in our tradition.

(continued on page 9)



Moving Torah



I AM ALWAYS on the lookout for ways to make prayer and text study exciting, engaging, compelling. Andrea Hodos, our upcoming Scholar/Artist-in-Residence and creator of Moving Torah, makes Torah come alive for me in a way that is physical, intellectual, spiritual and playful. I am so grateful to the Jeffrey A. Miller family for enabling us to bring Andrea Hodos to Sha'ar Zahav on February 3-4.

What is Moving Torah? Using writing, movement, discussion and play, Andrea will lead us through an easy-to-follow process where we create our own personal and powerful, moving commentary. You can read about Andrea's work in our cover story.

Several years ago, I had the chance to study text with Andrea and I was inspired by her innovative approach. I felt challenged to go beyond the simple, literal reading of the passage and to personalize the lessons in a way that has stayed with me.

As we studied the story of the Israelites escaping slavery, standing at the edge of the sea with enemies on their heels, Andrea invited each of us to personalize this story, to use the biblical story to shape our own personal metaphor. The stories that emerged from the guided exercises created a rich tapestry of voices around common themes.

Too often I experience prayer and text study using just my intellect. And yet these religious words are meant to inspire action, to move us and stretch us to express our mind, body, spirit selves. My hope is that in learning Moving Torah techniques, we will be able to incorporate this expression into our worship and study as one new way to draw meaning from our well of tradition.

On Yom Kippur this last year, Cantor Bernstein invited us to imagine holding our own personal Book of Life in our hands and then she asked us to whisper a prayer for ourselves into its pages. A number of people have mentioned to me how the memory of physically acting this out has helped them stay connected to their new year aspirations. I think there is a real link between embodying the words we say and actualizing the prayers of our hearts.

In our siddur, we have a beautiful prayer that helps us embody our praises. It is called the *Breath of Life, Nishmat Kol Chai*. Here is the last part of the prayer:

*Although our mouths were filled with song like the sea
And our tongues with joy like the crashing waves,
Our lips with praise like the widespread heavens,
And our eyes with shining like the sun and the moon,
Our hands raised up like eagles in the sky
And our feet as swift as the deer,
We could not praise You for the smallest part,
Of what You have wrought for our ancestors,
Of what You have wrought for ourselves.*

I look forward to experiencing Moving Torah with you.

Holiday Dinner Drive Thanks for Making it a Success

The Holiday Dinner Drive was started by Temple Sinai in Oakland twelve years ago to raise money in the late Fall for the Alameda County Community Food Bank. The Drive has gradually expanded to include sixteen Bay Area synagogues. This is the first year Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has participated. Last year this Jewish community effort raised over \$80,000 to benefit food banks in San Francisco, Alameda and Contra Costa counties. As of December 1, 2011, CSZ members have contributed \$1413 to the San Francisco Food Bank and \$515 to the Alameda County Community Food Bank. That is more than \$1900 and the drive is not over.

Next year the drive will be even easier, since the San Francisco and Alameda food banks are going to create synagogue-specific donation pages in 2012, so that donations can be made on-line. Hopefully, we can raise twice as much to aid our hungry community members next year.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
San Francisco CA 94103

VOICE 415-861-6932

FAX 415-861-6081

EMAIL office@shaarzahav.org

WEB <http://www.shaarzahav.org>

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



Sha'ar Zahav Staff

RABBI Camille Shira Angel
(x301) rabbicamilleangel@gmail.com

CANTOR Sharon Bernstein
(x308) cantorbernstein@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATOR Regina Wurst
(x302) regina@shaarzahav.org

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S
AND FAMILY EDUCATION Rebecca Weiner

(x302) Rebecca@shaarzahav.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Shaun Hannan
(x304) shaun@shaarzahav.org

Officers

PRESIDENT Karen Schiller
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L'dor v'dor—From Generation to Generation



AS PRESIDENT of Sha'ar Zahav, one of my favorite "duties" is presenting a new bar or bat mitzvah with a gift from the synagogue. I love having the chance to thank the child for his/her service leading and teaching. I hope that my words and my presence play a small role in reminding the child that s/he is a valuable part of our community, and that we have made a commitment to each other.

Because I do believe we have made a commitment to each other. We have promised to teach and learn from each other, to pass on what we know to the generations that come after us, and to remember what was taught to us by those who came before. While leading the congregation in the Amidah, the central prayer of our service, the b'nei mitzvah chants "l'dor v'dor," and I hear that as a demand, a cry for support: "Teach me. Be there for me. Welcome and embrace me." The congregation responds "l'dor v'dor": "Yes, we promise. We will be your teachers. We won't let you down." And the b'nei mitzvah says, "l'dor v'dor": "And I will be there for you too. I will be your student and your teacher. I will be a part of our community." The congregation answers "l'dor v'dor": "Yes."

Okay, so maybe I have an over-active imagination, but it's important to me to believe – to know – that what I am doing today will have meaning and importance to future generations. Because I don't have children of my own, it is easy for me to feel like a "broken link" in the chain of the Jewish people. Our b'nei mitzvah services remind me that I do have a responsibility *and the ability* to fulfill the promise we make each Shabbat: "l'dor v'dor – To all generations we will make known Your greatness..."

One way we at Sha'ar Zahav fulfill this promise is through our b'nei mitzvah mentor program. When Ilana Bernstein asked me a few years ago if I would be a mentor, my first thought was, "Are you kidding? I don't know anything. My

Hebrew isn't very good. I can't leyn (chant) Torah. I haven't even had a bat mitzvah myself." But I remembered I had enjoyed teaching at Beit Sefer as part of our Galei Limudim (Learning Waves) program, and, besides, how could I say no to Ilana? So I said yes, and I am so glad I did.

Ilana suggested that I might be a good match for Julia Reiser Shorofsky, so I met with her and her moms to talk about how we would work together. I remember thinking that my job as Julia's mentor was to make sure that she had a good experience preparing for her bat mitzvah. Of course, I wanted her to know the prayers and her Torah portion, but I also felt that the best way to turn a young person away from Judaism and synagogue life was to make preparing for a b'nei mitzvah completely stressful and not at all fun. Julia and I agreed to work together.

We began meeting every couple of weeks at first (usually, a mentor and mentee begin meeting 18 months before the b'nei mitzvah), and then more frequently as the time got closer. I have to admit, our time together was not totally focused on bat mitzvah preparation. After all, there were cupcakes to eat, iPhones to play with, and my cats needed attention too. But we did manage to spend some time practicing the prayers and Torah portion, and working on Julia's drash. Most importantly, we learned together, discussing what the prayers and portion meant to us.

When you're a mentor, you are not the only one helping to create a good experience for the b'nei mitzvah student. There is a CD of all the prayers, and the cantor will record the Torah portion. There are other mentors to help with the drash, and teachers available for Hebrew tutoring if necessary. Rabbi Angel meets with students and their families to encourage them in their Jewish learning. The family is part of a b'nei mitzvah chavurah, so they have support from other families going through the process as well. Ora Prochovnick facilitates planning the service, and our Educator, (continued on page 8)

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Jewish Gaily Forward

EDITOR Dana Vinicoff (vinicoff@hotmail.com)

ASSISTANT EDITORS Francisco Caravayo,
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CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Rebecca Weiner
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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE Batya Kalis,
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DESIGN AND LAYOUT Jonathan Wieder
(design@JonathanWieder.com)

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Volume 33, issue 3

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

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Shabbes Beat

JANUARY 20, AND THIRD FRIDAYS, 7:30 PM

It's all about that Shabbes groove. Rock, jazz, Latin, and blues, with Cantor Sharon and the Shabbes Beat band and chorus. Sing, dance, and pray. . . Joy up, relax, breathe, and sway. . . January 20, and every 3rd Friday at 7:30pm, starting in March.

Friday Night Live

JANUARY 27 AND FEBRUARY 24, 6:00 PM

Shabbat Shalom, people of youth! Come celebrate a Shabbat specially designed for 0 to 6 year-olds. Our FNL service is followed by dinner in the Oneg Room. We

will provide pizza (sponsored by parents), and we encourage you to bring a vegetarian dish to share with the community as well.

Please note we had to make some scheduling changes for FNL. It will not be happening on the first Friday of the month, but on the fourth or final Friday.

Jan 27

Feb 24

March 30

April (no FNL)

May 25

If you have any questions please e-mail Kim Lezin-Haveson, the new FNL contact person, at: kimhaveson@gmail.com

And please consider sponsoring the program by sending a check for \$150 (for one evening) or for any amount to be added to our fund to provide dinner for families.

Cantor Unplugged V

SATURDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 28, 8:00 P.M.

MEMBERS - \$10; NON-MEMBERS - \$15; CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER - FREE

Cantor Sharon Bernstein singing sultry

standards, show tunes, and gems from the American, Jewish, and Yiddish songbooks. To order tickets, please call the CSZ office at (415) 861-6932.

Music in the Mishkan returns to Sha'ar Zahav in 2012 for its 13th season! Violinist Randy Weiss and his colleagues will present 3 concerts, all Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m.: February 5, March 11, and May 20. Mark your calendars now!

Jeffrey A. Miller Scholar-in-Residence Weekend: "On Dry Ground: Faith, Fear and Transformation at the Edge of the Sea" with Andrea Hodos, creator of Moving Torah

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Celebrate Shabbat Shira with Andrea Hodos, creator of Moving Torah - an approach to text and tefilah (prayer) that combines writing, movement and theater. Through tefilot (prayers), performances, and participatory workshops, Andrea will help us explore the themes inherent in the Israelites' journey across the Red Sea (the

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Torah portion we read on Shabbat Shira): What does it feel like to have solid ground below your feet, but walls of water on either side? How do we harness faith to move forward through fear? How do we jump in when we're not sure how the story is going to end? Who do we rely on to help us through?

Andrea will join Rabbi Angel and Cantor Bernstein on the bimah on Friday, February 3 and services will include a Moving Torah *tefilah* experience. On Saturday, she will participate in Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer's Opening Circle, and then offer another Moving Torah *tefilah* experience and *d'var* Torah during Saturday morning services. After lunch, there will be a two-hour Moving Torah workshop, followed by a Saturday evening performance/event. For more information about Andrea Hodos and Moving Torah, and to see samples of her work, go to www.moving-torah.org

Classes

Shalom Aleichem: Part One

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ANGELS IN THE JEWISH TRADITION

FACILITATED BY ANDREW RAMER

The Hebrew word for angel, *malakh*, means 'messenger.' Our sacred texts are full of angels. We welcome them at the beginning of each Shabbat. For more than two thousand years our ancestors considered belief in angels a fundamental part of their faith. Are angels real non-physically focused beings, a reflection of our higher selves, or simply empowering metaphors? Why should we think about them at all, as 21st century Jews? And what kinds of messages might they have for us today? In this two-hour class we will read some of our core texts on angels, learn about some of the more famous and infamous ones, and practice two angel meditations that are still found in our liturgy and are easy to learn.

Shalom Aleichem: Part Two

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 3:00 – 6:00 P.M.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ANGELS IN OUR OWN LIVES

In 1977 Andrew had his first surprising

encounter with an angel, which led to his co-authoring the international best seller *Ask Your Angels*, and his own follow-up, *Angel Answers*. In this three-hour workshop Andrew will be guiding you through a five-step process he's shared with thousands of others since 1977, which will allow you to make conscious contact with the angels, whatever you think that they might be. Please bring writing materials and an open mind and heart. You do not have to take Part One to take Part Two.

Re-visioning Our Mahzor

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 7-9:30 P.M.

It took several years and the work of more than one hundred people to create our new Siddur. Starting before Thanksgiving we will be holding monthly discussion groups that will focus on the creation of a new High Holiday Prayer Book. In these groups we will study our current Mahzor, supplement, and other mahzorim, and learn more about the ancient prayers that shape our spiritual journey from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur.

These classes will be open to adults and children. In addition to reading, studying, and discussing, we will be writing, and drawing too. After the holidays we will be soliciting your comments on our current Mahzor, what works for you, what doesn't work, and the kinds of things you'd like to see in our new text. The process of creating a new Mahzor calls for writers, editors, artists, daveners, meditators, dreamers, and you. We look forward to your participation in this process.

Sex in the ~~city~~ Bible

TUESDAYS, MARCH 20 AND APRIL 3, 7:00 P.M.

TAUGHT BY HOWARD STEIERMANN

No, this class will have nothing to do with the TV show. Yes, it will be based on our tradition's erotic love poetry, the *Song of Songs*. Join us in learning together about biblical passages that most of us aren't that familiar with, such as:

Getting drunk with kisses! Invitations to be taken into private chambers! Watching a lover dance so that we ogle at their loveliness. A neck like a tower of ivory, begging for a tongue. This two-part class will stimulate as well as educate. Different material will be covered in each session, so if you can't make it to both, come to one.

Torah Without Gloves!

JAN-FEB., DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

TAUGHT BY RABBI DEV FELDER-NOILY

This class is about digging into Torah with our own hands, down and dirty, peeking behind the veil of translations. So much of Torah is revealed (or concealed) in the language of Biblical Hebrew itself. From the sweepingly conceptual (Biblical Hebrew reckons time in a radically different way) to the seemingly trivial (a tiny dot may be the only remnant of a disappeared letter, unlocking the root, and meaning, of a word) Biblical Hebrew is a portal to a particular intimacy with Torah.

This class is not *in* Biblical Hebrew, but *about* Biblical Hebrew. You'll learn how the language works, without having to learn the language. We'll learn to recognize patterns, clues and cues that can get us in close to the text itself. We'll study multiple English translations of a biblical text in order to lay bare the ambiguities in the Hebrew. And we'll begin to explore how these very ambiguities are both the playground and breeding ground for the brilliantly creative (continued on page 8)

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Attorney and Mediator
CharlesSpiegelLaw@gmail.com
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Shalom BSPM Community



Dear Beit Sefer Community,

My musings this month have a somber tone. I write with great sadness as I reflect on the suicides of so many teens in our community. I have had several conversations with parents and teens to discuss our sadness about teen suicides. In the past year, I have been made aware of at least ten teen suicides. This is just so tragic and unthinkable. It is the responsibility of all educators to reflect on how we can address this disturbing trend. I feel I have a double responsibility as an educator who focuses on the spiritual health of our youth to reflect on Jewish responses to this.

My first responses (as I am sure is true for many people) are questions:

How it is that teens feel that suicide is an acceptable response to sadness, despair and depression?

What support systems can we provide that can help teens to know they have other options when they are in despair?

You have heard me proclaim many times that my passion for Jewish education is because I believe so deeply in the importance of Jewish continuity. However, there are secondary reasons that are also deeply important. It seems very clear to me and most adults that young people are under an unprecedented kind of pressure. They worry excessively that every choice they make will have an indelible impact on their future. It is increasingly harder for them to get into college, high school or kindergarten for that matter. Much of their self-worth is garnered through achievement, whether in the classroom or on the sports field or through pursuing a myriad of create pursuits. Where do young people get to feel a sense of recognition for just being themselves?

Secondary education provides many positive supports to young people. They

have opportunities to experience different social milieus and for having other outlets beside their academic performance. Recently the BSPM curriculum committee met and we discussed what the important meta-concepts are that inform our curriculum and the intent of BSPM.

We strive to make BSPM the following, among others:

A place where students feel safe, seen, valued and connected

A place that nurtures teens intellectually, spiritually and socially

A learning environment that fosters memory

A learning environment that fosters an identity that is separate from achievement

It is my hope that these goals will provide students with a loving and enriching environment that helps to create their sense of self esteem. It is also my hope that having this type of environment will encourage spiritual discussion and ethical ponderings. I hope that students feel they have a safe structure to raise difficult subjects. Most of all I hope that they feel they are part of a loving community where they can always speak their truth and get helped and they are deeply valued.

The highest value of Judaism is *pikuakh nefesh* (Hebrew *פיקוח נפש* *pikuakh* "saving", of *נפש* *nefesh* "life"): this principle in Jewish law holds that the preservation of human life overrides virtually any other religious consideration. When the life of a specific person is in danger, almost any *negative commandment* of the *Torah* becomes inapplicable.

The Talmud also says that if you save one person, you save the world. It is inconceivable that young people feel so hopeless that they don't feel that they have options. I hope that that in some small way, our amazing young people at BSPM can go out and share their hope and youthful vitality and be a light among nations to their peers.

In the meantime, I take a moment of prayer time each day to say a silent prayer for these lost youth and hold their memory.

Introducing the B'nei Mitzvah

Sophie Hogan-Cytron

On the morning of January, 7, 2012, Sophie Hogan-Cytron will be called to the Torah to become a Bat-Mitzvah. Sophie's portion is Va'yechi. Based on her interpretation of Va'yechi, the theme of her drash is forgiveness.

Sophie is in 7th grade at the San Francisco Friends School and loves playing volleyball and swimming. She is a member of The Olympic Club swim team. She also likes dancing, listening to music and taking photographs. Sophie started her journey at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav when she was five years old. As one of her Mitzvah projects, Sophie grew her hair out and donated it to Locks of Love, an organization that takes donated hair and makes it into wigs for children who have cancer. She has also volunteered at Rocket Dog Rescue, which helps find homes for dogs that have been abandoned, given up, or mistreated by their owner.

I would like to thank my mentor Rebecca for all her help throughout this process. And my fabulous parents Judy and



Kelly, who have always been there for me whenever I needed you.

BEIT SEFER DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY

- 4 Wednesday Class
- 7 Shabbat Class –
Sophie Hogan-Cytron's
Bat Mitzvah
- 11 Wednesday Class
- 14 NO BEIT SEFER
- 18 Wednesday Class
- 20 Shinnui Family Potluck and
sleepover
- 21 Shabbat Class
- 25 Wednesday Class
- 28 Shabbat Class

FEBRUARY

- 1 Wednesday Class
- 4 Shabbat Class- Celebration
of Learning
- 8 Wednesday Class

11 Shabbat Class-

SHABBAT SIMCHA

15 Wednesday Class

18 NO BEIT SEFER

22 Wednesday Class

25 Shabbat Class Begin Unit- People of the Book

29 Wednesday Class

MARCH

- 3 Shabbat Class-
PURIM CARNIVAL/SPIEL
- 7 Wednesday Class
- 10 Shabbat Class
- 14 Wednesday Class
- 17 Shabbat Class
- 21 Wednesday Class
- 23 Kehillah Family Potluck
and sleepover

24 Shabbat Class

28 Wednesday Class

31 Shabbat Class

APRIL

- 4 Wednesday Class
- 7 NO BEIT SEFER
- 11 NO BEIT SEFER
- 14 NO BEIT SEFER
- 18 Wednesday Class
- 21 Shabbat Class –
Avidan Novagrodsky-Godt's
Bar Mitzvah
- 25 Wednesday Class
- 27 Kadimah Family Potluck
and sleepover
- 28 Shabbat Class

MAY

- 2 Wednesday Class
- 5 Saturday Class-
SHABBAT SIMCHA
- 9 Wednesday Class
- 12 Saturday Class
- 16 Wednesday Class
- 19 Saturday Class- LAST DAY
OF SCHOOL- Celebration
of Learning, Teacher
Appreciation
- 26 Elias Rose's Bar Mitzvah

JUNE

- 2 Deanna Schemmel Shapiro's
Bat Mitzvah

What's Up

(continued from page 5)

and deeply spiritual enterprise of rabbinic *midrash*, including *Zohar*.

For folks who know, or who are up for learning before the class starts, the letters of the Hebrew Alef-Bet. (Hebrew in One Day is taught regularly through Lehrhaus Judaica, http://catalog.lehrhaus.org/by_category/hebrew-in-one-day/; these websites also help: http://www.akhlah.com/aleph_bet/aleph-bet.php, www.cartoonhebrew.com.)

Masters of the Radical Re-frame: How the Rabbis do Midrash

TAUGHT BY RABBI DEV FELDER NOILY,
MARCH-APRIL

Midrash is a powerful, creative process that the rabbis of the post-Temple period used to unlock the ever-flowing teaching in the sacred text they received from their ancestors — the Torah. In this class, we'll explore some of the rules, techniques and spiritual underpinnings of this radical interpretive relationship to text.

Chavurot

Meditation Chavurah

All are welcome to join us at our monthly meeting of the meditation chavurah, on first Saturdays, January 7 and February 4. We will be gathering in the reception area at Sha'ar Zahav about 10:00 am, and will walk to the nearby home of a member to sit in a lovely, peaceful setting. A typical gathering includes a short and longer silent sit, often including a guided portion; some chanting; reflecting; and perhaps a short teaching. For more information, contact the office, or Sarita at saritaft@gmail.com

East Bay Chavurah

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 6:00 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 6:00 PM

Sha'ar Zahav members and their guests are invited to Sha'ar Zahav's East Bay Chavurah, held the second Friday of every month. Our evening begins with blessings and a vegetarian/vegan potluck. At 7:30, adults and teens continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. To RSVP or host a future event, or get more information, please contact Jessica Israel Cannon at jisrael68@yahoo.com.

Meetings

Tikkun Olam/Social Justice Committee (SFOP) Meeting

January 20 and February 17,
6:00-7:15 pm

Let's learn what SFOP is up to these days, and find places where we can lead or fit in to improve the state of our state.

Va'ad Meeting

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 6:45 PM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 6:45 PM

All are welcome to attend and listen to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's monthly Board meeting with its pre-set agenda.

L'dor v'dor

(continued from page 3)

Rebecca Weiner, is there to provide whatever other support is needed.

Although being a mentor meant that I was giving up some of my precious free time for over a year, it was one of the best experiences I have ever had at Sha'ar Zahav. I had the opportunity to spend quality time with someone I never would have met otherwise, and got to know her moms as well. I studied Torah on a regular basis. I learned that I understood more Hebrew than I thought I did. And finally, I helped connect one young Jew to all the generations of Jews before us and after — l'dor v'dor.

If you have never been a b'nei mitzvah mentor, please consider it. If you

have been a mentor but it's been awhile, please think about stepping up again. You have a great gift to offer a student and your community. And, if you have been a recent mentor, thank you.

For more information about becoming a b'nei mitzvah mentor, please contact our Educator, Rebecca Weiner at rebweiner@gmail.com and our Mentor Coordinator, Ilana Bernstein at berndes@mindspring.com.

On Dry Ground

(continued from page 1)

On Shabbat morning, services will engage families and adults in different ways. Andrea will join families at the Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer Morning Circle, where we will have the opportunity to step into the Israelites' shoes and see what it felt like to walk "on dry ground in the middle of the sea."

During the Shabbat morning service, Andrea's sermon will be in the form of a short performance piece interpreting the moment of the Israelites' crossing. In the afternoon, community members have the opportunity to join Andrea in creating their own Moving Torah on the story of crossing the sea in a two-hour workshop. This will be an opportunity to learn the text in depth, and to learn simple but imaginative ways to quickly create meaningful responses. One of Andrea's strength as a teacher is leading people who don't usually see themselves as dancers or performers through very accessible exercises, helping them to create beautiful and meaningful work. Anyone who is moved to give it a try is encouraged to come.

On Saturday night, Andrea looks forward to sharing her solo show "Cutting My Hair in Jerusalem" with the congregation and engaging in a communal conversation about liberation, finding your identity with integrity, and reflecting on the different ways to blend tradition and modernity in our own lives.

Andrea Hodos has been making dances, and helping other people make their own dances, for three decades. Andrea is the creator of *Moving Torah Workshops* - a method for interpreting traditional Jewish texts using writing, movement and

theater exercises alongside traditional study methods. In her work, Andrea draws principally on the techniques of community-based dance that she learned through the *Liz Lerman Dance Exchange* in Washington DC. Andrea received an M.Ed. in Dance Education from *Temple University* and a B.A. in English Literature from *Yale University*. She learned classical texts at the *Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies* in Jerusalem, and performs a piece she created about her time there called, "Cutting My Hair in Jerusalem." Andrea performs and teaches in California and nationally, as well. In 2007-2008 she was artist-in-residence at HUC-JIR in Los Angeles. During her residency, she created a piece with rabbinic and cantorial students alongside her professional company members called *On Dry Ground: Faith, Fear and Transformation at the Edge of the Sea*. The piece explored the themes we will be talking about over this scholar/artist in residence weekend and brought to life the different midrashim on the Red Sea experience. In 2008, she and her company worked with the Dance Exchange in a piece created for the National Building Museum.

Andrea Hodos' *Cutting My Hair in Jerusalem* is edgy and funny—a sharply observed, poignant memoir of a type of spiritual coming-of-age that is all too rarely shared or documented. Hodos' use of dance, poetry and storytelling crosses the worlds of Judaism, feminism and the arts in a new kind of expression — unsentimental, yet moving.

Dr. Pinchas Giller, Professor of
Kabbalah and Jewish Thought
American Jewish University

G3MH

LEGAL HELP? Contact David Gellman

Estate Planning – Business Law – Real Estate
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Music in the Mishkan Returns for a 13th Season!

Music in the Mishkan is turning 13, and to celebrate its bar (bat?) mitzvah, our own Randy Weiss and his musical friends are presenting three stupendous Sunday afternoon concerts. Mark your calendars: the dates are February 5, March 11 and May 20.

Highlights of the season include:

A world premiere horn trio (a Music in the Mishkan first!) on February 5,

The monumental Brahms A major Piano Quartet on March 1, and

The lush Dvorak "Dumky" Piano Trio on May 20.

All concerts begin at 4:00 p.m., and are followed by a wine and cheese reception. You can order tickets by calling the office at 415.861.6932, or by filling out the order form you received in November. The full programs are listed below. Don't miss these beautiful concerts in our lovely sanctuary!



Sunday, February 5 "Horn Free"

Horn Trio (World Premiere)-Brian Wilson
Andante for horn and piano-Richard Strauss
5 Melodies for violin and piano-Serge Prokofiev
Horn Trio-Johannes Brahms

Sunday, March 11 "It's Sonata Unusual"

Sonata No. 1 for viola and piano-Darius Milhaud
Sonata No. 10 for violin and piano-Ludwig van Beethoven
Piano Quartet in A major, Op. 26- Johannes Brahms

Sunday, May 20 "O Sole Trio"

Three Nocturnes-Ernest Bloch
Piano Trio No. 2 in B minor-Joachim Turina
Piano Trio in E minor, Op. 90 "Dumky"-Antonin Dvorak

Cantor Unplugged

Lower East Side to the lights of Broadway



~ Saturday, January 28 ~
8:00 pm

Featuring

**Cantor Sharon Bernstein
& friends**

singing sultry standards, show tunes, and
gems from the American, Jewish and
Yiddish songbooks

Admission: \$10 members; \$15 non-members;
children 12 and under free

Sponsored by The Rabbi Julius and Pearl Funk
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Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Sharyn Saslafsky in honor and appreciation of Cantor Bernstein.

Karen Schiller with thanks for everything.

Karren Shorofsky & Carolyn Reiser in honor of Cantor Bernstein

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Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum in memory of Frank Hyman.

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in memory of Doris Ingersoll.

in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

John Arnold in honor of Jonathan Funk on the occasion of Hannukah.

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in memory of Bill Heller.

Jonathan Funk in honor of Cantor Bernstein's musical leadership & participation in High Holidays.

in memory of Maxine Funk.

in honor of Rabbi Angel's leadership of High Holiday services.

Jonathan Funk, John Arnold & Evan Arnold-Gordon in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

General Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

in memory of Irving Buchbinder.

in memory of Donald Prestwood.

in memory of Donna Martin.

in memory of Forrest Kincade, Don Albert, Chuck Norton, Marilyn O'Keeffe, Nick Papadopoulos, Elijah Silverrod-MacLachlan and Allan Craig.

Henry Carrey in memory of his grandparents, Ruven Kirzhner and Hinde Brestayner Kirzhner.

in memory of Rose Post Andelman.

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

Triptta Cohen

Mitch & Lynda Dorf in honor of the Olson Dorf family.

James Edlin & Eve Meyer in memory of Hans Meyer & J. Kenneth Edlin.

Richard Grosboll in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

Batya Kalis in memory of Donna Martin. in memory of Esther Kalis, Sherman Kalis and Dorothy Hodes.

Susan Leff & Brad Post

Walter Leiss in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

Ron Lezell in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

Mark Mackler

Esther Marks in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

Nancy Meyer in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe.

Richard Meyerson in honor of Nancy Meyer.

Irene Ojdana in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

Joseph & Lois Piade in memory of David Tilzer.

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

Mauri Schwartz in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

Arthur Slepian & Gerry Llamado in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

Max Strassfeld in memory of Ruth Sutton.

Filip Yeskel in memory of Felice Yeskel.

Ami Zusman in memory of Esther Saslafsky. in honor of Emma Caplan Simonoff's Bat Mitzvah.

High Holidays 5772 Sponsorships

Anonymous for High Holidays 5772 sanctuary costs.

Michael Chertok for High Holidays 5772 sanctuary costs, in honor of Alex Ingersoll and Martin Tannenbaum's anniversary.

Donald Fischer for High Holidays 5772 childcare.

David Gellman & Salo Rawet for High Holidays 5772 sanctuary costs.

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum for High Holidays 5772 sanctuary costs.

Walter Leiss for Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg and Yom Kippur Break-fast.

Laura Lowe for supporting the cost of our clean up crew during Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

Drew Parker-Rose & Flavio Epstein for Bimah Greenery during the High

Holidays.

Dr. Larry Rand for Rosh Hashanah Flowers, in memory of his beloved father, Alter Rand, a holocaust survivor.

Karen Schiller for Yom Kippur Flowers, in honor of the staff and volunteers of Sha'ar Zahav.

Andy Schwartz & John Mark Eggerton for High Holidays 5772 sanctuary costs, in honor of Alex Ingersoll and Martin Tannenbaum's anniversary.

Arthur Slepian & Gerry Llamado for High Holidays 5772 sanctuary costs, in honor of Karen Schiller.

Ilona Turner & Philip Kaplan High Holidays 5772 sanctuary costs.

Larry Wexler High Holidays 5772 sanctuary costs.

High Holiday Pledges 5772

Stan Adler

Anonymous

Ann Bauman & Kelly Thiemann in honor of Rabbi Angel and Cantor Bernstein.

Allan Berenstein

Claudia Berz in memory of her parents.

Marsha Blachman

Elliot Block

Don Brownstein in memory of his parents.

James Carlson

Henry Carrey

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Daniel Chesir

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman

Helen Cohen & Mark Lipman

Helen Dannenberg in memory of Felice and Eli Rosenblatt.

Lisa Danzig in honor of Mr. Gerald Rosenstein.

Matthew & Sharon Diamond

Flavio Epstein

Herbert Felsenfeld in honor of the community.

Michael Freeman

Jonathan Funk

Robyn Futterman

Steven Gaynes

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Ellen Goodman
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Rebecca Grant
Tova Green
Howard Hahn
Peggy Hammett & Rudy LaCoe
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Lawrence Helman
Judith Hibbard-Mipaas
Erica Hitchings
Judith Huerta
Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum
Lisa Inman & Alisa Gilden
Raul & Carole Jacoby
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and Alissa Stern.
Batya Kalis
Jean Katz in honor of Lisa Katz &
Sharon Heath.
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Sharyn Saslafsky in honor and
appreciation of Rabbi Angel.
Karen Schiller in memory of her father,
Jay Schiller.
Susan Schwartz
Irene Tannenbaum in honor of Rabbi
Angel.
Sam Thal in honor of Rabbi Angel.

October

15

Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Jeff Rubin and Frank Bush** In honor of Jeffrey Lilly's Birthday

21/22

Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Marty & Meagan Fox** In honor of the naming of their daughter, Josephine - Chanah Yosefa bat Moshe v'Eliana -

28/29

Friday Night Live Generously Sponsored by **Kim & Justyn Lezin-Haveson**

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **The Novogrodsky-Godt Family** In honor of Avidan co-leading services

November

4/5

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Julie Dorf, Jenni Olson and Hazel Singer Olson-Dorf** In appreciation of the many hours of support and preparation for Hazel's Bat Mitzvah provided by Sarita Groisser, Ora Prochovnick, Avi Goldberg, Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and Rebecca Weiner.

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Harriet and Jerry Dorf** In honor of Hazel Singer Olson-Dorf's Bat Mitzvah

11/12

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Arnie Jackson** In beloved memory of Richard D. Wright

Bimah Flowers & Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **The Caplan Simonoff Family** In honor of Emma Caplan Simonoff's Bat Mitzvah

18/19

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Billie and Ryan Buchholz Mandel** In honor of their son, Gabriel's first birthday!

Bay Area Midrasha in Oakland

Bay Area Midrasha in Oakland is a pluralistic community based Jewish program for teens in 8th-12th grades. We are jointly sponsored by a number of synagogues, newly including Sha'ar Zahav! I am personally very excited about Sha'ar Zahav's sponsorship, as a long time Sha'ar Zahav community member and someone who has been very involved with Sha'ar Zahav's educational programs. Each month in this bulletin I'll update you about what's going on at Midrasha in the upcoming month. I'm so glad to collaborate with Sha'ar Zahav in this way! If you have a teen and would like to know more about Midrasha, please don't hesitate to be in touch. Teens are welcome to come check out the program for the night anytime, and are welcome to join at any point during the year.

Welcome back from your winter break! December was an exciting month at Midrasha with our first retreat of the year and our special retreat intro program for 8th graders.

We had a new introduction-to-the-weekend-retreats program for our 8th graders just before the winter vacation. 8th graders from all four Midrasha campuses joined together for "A Tasty Backward Adventure: A sneak-peek at the Midrasha Retreats with Burritos, Blindfolds and the Beastie Boys" which started at Live Oak park for ice-breakers and a campfire with Havdalah and S'mores, then moved to Midrasha in Berkeley for burritos and a no-talent talent show! Next we went to Piedmont Park for a nature walk, and travelled to Oakland Midrasha for a bagel breakfast dance party and gratitude circle. Our youngest students had a lot of fun, got to know their peers from the other campuses and became famil-

iar with some of the rituals and activities that occur on each weekend-long retreat. Next up: they can RSVP for their first full-length retreat in February!

Our 9th-12th graders had their own first retreat of the year December 9-11 at Camp Newman. They were reunited with their friends from all four Midrasha campuses to learn, rest, play, dance, laugh, and bond. They delved more deeply into the themes covered in their core classes, for 9th Graders: Jewish and Personal Identity, for 10th Graders: Israel, and for 11th and 12th Graders: JIY – "Jew it Yourself" or The American Jewish Experience. And they built community connections that will, in many cases, last a lifetime!

Special student programs during January will include an 8th-9th graders' Lounge Night on the 17th, a panel on homelessness for 8th graders, and a program on the Jewish Partisans for 8th-12th graders, and a speaker in the 11th/12th grade speaker series. It's a full month here at Midrasha!

For Parents, our next program will be on January 17th. The first two parent programs this year were a huge hit, and all of our parent programs offer parents the chance to simultaneously see what their teens are doing at Midrasha, and experience a fun, dynamic Midrasha-style class for their own learning pleasure!

Oakland Midrasha will resume January 10. We look forward to welcoming back continuing Midrasha students as well as new students (maybe they finished their college applications...). Students will choose new electives that night, so it won't be too late to enroll. Feel free to contact me with any questions at bayareamidrasha@gmail.com or 510-501-6692.

Kendra Lubalin

Lifecycles

Mazel tov to **Marianne and Danielle Schlosser** on the October 19 birth of their daughter, **Avery Marie Schlosser**.

Mazel tov to **Hazel Olson Dorf** on the occasion of her becoming a bat mitzvah on November 5.

Mazel tov to **Emma Caplan Simonoff** on the occasion of her becoming a bat mitzvah on November 11.

Naches

Mazel tov to **Miki Goralsky**, who became a hero the evening of September 18 after she literally saved a man's life by performing CPR on him.

Mazel tov to **Ina Turpen Fried**, who

was honored on October 3 with an Excellence in Journalism award by the Northern California Chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association for her extensive work with NLGJA, her advocacy for LGBT people in the workplace, and her continued contributions to the journalism world. Ina is a senior editor at Dow Jones' All Things Digital; prior to joining ATD she spent a decade at CNET. She chairs the Transgender and Allies Task Force for NLGJA.

Mazel tov to **Lucy Bernholz**, whose article "A New Social Economy - A Broader Mix of Players" was published in the October issue of Sh'ma.

Mazel tov to **Shayna Prochovnick**, who received the Theresa Lee Memorial Award (2011/12 MVP for AAA league SF girls high school volleyball),

given to the best in league. Shayna's team, of which she is a captain, Balboa High School Lady Buccaneers, won the citywide championship game at Kezar. They defeated Lowell High - previously undefeated and historically the league's best team - and clinched the first ever girls volleyball championship title in Balboa High's history.

Mazel tov to **Carol Dawson Rose** for recently being inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Mazel tov to **Mark Mackler**, who was presented with the Attorney General's Award for Excellence on December 5 in Sacramento.

Care to share your triumphs with the CSZ community? Write to regina@shaarzahav.org with any personal victories you'd like to see celebrated in our weekly newsletter!

Our Legacy Community

CSZ Achieves 1st Year Goals—receives Bonus from Jewish Community Federation

Momentum for the Our Legacy Community project is building. The response from members who have been contacted has been overwhelmingly positive, and we have achieved our first-year goal which was to obtain 30 signed Letters of Intent. As a result of this I am thrilled to report that we will be receiving a \$6,000 bonus from JCF.

We are grateful to the following who have completed their "Letter of Intent" to leave a bequest to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav - either in their will or their trust, or by naming CSZ as beneficiary on their IRA or other retirement accounts:

Marianne Balin
Jesse (Shai) Begley
James Carlson
Daniel Chesir
Paul Cohen

Jonathan Funk
David Gellman
Allan Gold
Sarita Groisser
Alex Ingersoll
& Martin Tannenbaum
Rose Katz
Walter Leiss
Ron Lezell
Deborah Levy
Marc Lipschutz
Jeffrey Lilly
Laura Lowe
Eileen Lynette
Mark Mackler
Paul Margolis
Steve Mazer
Richard Meyerson
Irene Ogus
Ora Prochovnik
& Rena Frantz
Andrew Ramer
Mike Rankin, M.D.
Jerry Rosenstein

Karen Schiller
Andrew Schwartz
William "Bill" Smith
Howard Steiermann
Deborah Udin
Dana Vinicoff
Larry Wexler
Dennis R. Ybarra
Frank Yellin & Mark Showalter
Ami Zussman

We will continue to reach out to our membership asking for a bequest to the Our Legacy Community campaign.

If you'd like to meet with a member of the Legacy committee to complete your own "Letter of Intent," or if you've already remembered us in your will and want to let us know, please contact me - Irene Ogus, irene.ogus@gmail.com

Forward to our 2nd year goal!
Irene

Condolences

To **Marty and Shelli Rawlings-Fein**, on the death of their friend, Jack Random

To **Larry Wexler**, on the death of his cousin, Howard Feintuch

To **Shelli Rawlings-Fein**, on the death of her grandmother, Ruth Sutton

To **Steve Moss**, on the death of his aunt, Elise Shapira

To **Paul Peninger**, on the death of his grandmother, Bertha Peninger

To **Sharyn Saslafsky**, on the death of her mother, Esther Saslafsky

To **Marty Tilzer**, on the death of his father, David Erwin Tilzer

To **Jim Greenberg**, on the death of his sister, Susan Rae Greenberg (sister-in-law of **Judith Bell**, aunt of **Emma and Jacob Greenberg-Bell**)

Member Yahrzeits

January

- 3 Aaron Nacamulli
- 9 Jerome Davis
- 18 Keith Fenton
- 26 Cheryl Orvis
- 27 Bill Ashley-Dobbin
- 28 Nathan Eli-Weinstein

February

- 1 Steven Richter
- 2 Stephen Walters
- 4 John Atteridg
- 6 Ronald Wilmont
- 14 Ziggy Gimnich
- 14 Allen Harris
- 14 Barbara Rosenblum
- 15 Allan Harris
- 17 Rabbi Jason Gaber
- 23 Leland Vogel

Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives.

Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible.

We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

*Rabbi Camille
Shira Angel*

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290 Dolores Street
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VOICE 415-861-6932

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Sha'ar Zahav

Tevet-Sh'vat 5772

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 TEVET New Year's Day	7 TEVET Office closed	8 TEVET 4 pm Beit Sefer	9 TEVET	10 TEVET	11 TEVET 8:15 pm Shabbat Service	12 TEVET 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Hogan- Cytron
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13 TEVET 3 pm Shalom Aleichem class	14 TEVET	15 TEVET	16 TEVET 7 pm Re-visioning our Machzor	17 TEVET	18 TEVET 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	19 TEVET 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
20 TEVET	21 TEVET Office Closed-MLK Jr. Day	22 TEVET	23 TEVET 4 pm Beit Sefer	24 TEVET 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting	25 TEVET 7:30 pm Shabbes Beat Service	26 TEVET 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
27 TEVET 3 pm Shalom Aleichem class FISC event	28 TEVET	29 TEVET	1 SH'VAT 4 pm Beit Sefer	2 SH'VAT 7 pm Ritual Committee mt	3 SH'VAT 6 pm Friday Night Live 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	4 SH'VAT 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service 8 pm Canton Unplugged
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
5 SH'VAT	6 SH'VAT	7 SH'VAT				
29	30	31				

Sha'ar Zahav

Sh'vat-Adar 5772

FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			8 SH'VAT Beit Sefer	5 SH'VAT	6 SH'VAT 8:15 Shabbat Service SIR with Andrea Hodos	7 SH'VAT 9 am Torah Study Shabbat Service Shabbat Shira SIR- Moving Torah
8 SH'VAT 4 pm Music in the Mishkan	9 SH'VAT	10 SH'VAT	11 SH'VAT 4 pm Beit Sefer	12 SH'VAT	13 SH'VAT 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	14 SH'VAT 9 am Torah Study Shabbat Service Shabbat Simcha
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15 SH'VAT	16 SH'VAT	17 SH'VAT	18 SH'VAT 4 pm Beit Sefer	19 SH'VAT 6:45 pm Va'ad meeting	20 SH'VAT 6 pm Tikkun Olam meeting 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	21 SH'VAT 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22 SH'VAT	23 SH'VAT Office closed President's Day	24 SH'VAT	25 SH'VAT 4 pm Beit Sefer	26 SH'VAT 7 pm Ritual Committee meeting	1 ADAR 6 pm Friday Night Live 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	2 ADAR 9 am Torah Study Shabbat Service Alex Ingersoll's Bat Mitzvah
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
3 ADAR	4 ADAR	5 ADAR	6 ADAR 4 pm Beit Sefer			
26	27	28	29			